United Nations A/C.2/63/SR.4

General Assembly
Sixty-third session

Official Records

Distr.: General
27 October 2008

Original: English

Second Committee

Summary record of the 4th meeting
Held at Headquarters, New York, on Tuesday, 7 October 2008, at 10 a.m.

Chairperson: Ms. Ogwu ..... (Nigeria)

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08-53800 (E)

The meeting was called to order at 10.10 a.m.

General debate (*continued*)

1. **Mr. Onemola** (Nigeria) said that, in the light of the international financial crisis resulting from imbalances in the global financial system, a comprehensive overhaul of the Bretton Woods institutions was required to ensure a level playing field for developed and developing countries alike.

2. The global food crisis seriously affected the developing countries' prospects of achieving their Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) and would, perhaps, persuade the international community to accord priority attention to the agricultural sector in those countries. Nigeria welcomed recent actions taken by the United Nations and called on the Secretary-General's High-Level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis to closely collaborate with the United Nations MDG Africa Steering Group to mobilize international assistance for the development of the region's agricultural sector. One reason for the low agricultural production in developing countries was the minimal level of mechanization. As part of a comprehensive food security strategy, Nigeria was therefore boosting large-scale commercial agriculture and called on the agencies and institutions of the United Nations system to collaborate in that initiative.

3. Climate change called for urgent global action. The devastating effects of global warming had resulted in land degradation and water evaporation in many parts of Africa, which could lead to enormous loss of life from starvation. Nigeria called on its development partners to provide sustainable assistance, complementing domestic efforts to identify solutions for the problems related to climate change in Africa. In addition, it hoped that the efforts of the United Nations would result in a post-2012 climate change regime under which the industrialized countries would make far-reaching commitments to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and to ensure the transfer of clean, renewable technologies, access to financing, and capacity-building for the adaptation strategies of developing countries.

4. Nigeria was an oil-producing country, but attached great importance to clean fossil fuel technologies; it therefore proposed the creation of a special fund for research and development to ensure mass production of renewable energies, such as solar, hydro, nuclear and wind energies, to lessen their cost. Moreover, despite having achieved a high growth rate, Nigeria suffered from inadequate support infrastructure, particularly in the energy and transportation sectors, and would welcome massive foreign investment in those areas in order to ensure sustainable industrialization.

5. Nigeria called on all parties to bring the Doha Round to a prompt conclusion so as to ensure that international trade became more inclusive and development-oriented. In addition, intellectual property rules should be modified to improve the access of developing countries to new technologies and products. Furthermore, all parties to the Monterrey Consensus should fulfil their commitments concerning development financing.

6. Developing countries had become wary of aid promises that failed to materialize, which had led to a crisis of confidence and trust. Although Africa's development partners had pledged to provide 0.7 per cent of gross national income by 2015, it was essential that they do so by 2012 in order to have a positive impact on the achievement of the MDGs. The overarching aim of aid should be to make the beneficiaries self-sufficient; therefore, it should focus on the productive sector. The Development Cooperation Forum should provide international oversight and monitor the utility of official development assistance (ODA); Nigeria therefore called for faithful implementation of the Paris Declaration on Aid Effectiveness and the Accra Agenda for Action.

7. Nigeria remained firmly committed to the principles of South-South cooperation and was currently expanding the scope of its support to many other developing countries through its Technical Aid Corps.

8. The proceeds of trade in stolen crude oil had been linked to corruption, violence and even war. Nigeria therefore called for concerted international action to raise awareness about oil bunkering and criminalize it.

9. While the countries of Africa appreciated the special attention paid by the international community to their development needs, they had implemented their own national, subregional and regional strategies to take responsibility for their own development, insofar as their resources permitted. Nevertheless, they faced challenges due to factors beyond their control, such as

climate change, an unfavourable international trade system and endemic diseases, and they required the collaboration of their development partners and of the international community as a whole to address those problems.

10. **Mr. Acharya** (Nepal) said that it was encouraging that additional commitments had recently been made to help developing countries achieve their MDGs. However, the least developed and landlocked developing countries and countries emerging from conflict had yet to fully benefit from new development activities and continued to be marginalized from the globalization process. Implementation of commitments under the Brussels Programme of Action should be accelerated. Also, it was evident from the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action that the landlocked developing countries required sustained trade-enhancing support measures and higher investment in their transport infrastructure. The special needs and difficulties of the least developed and landlocked developing countries should be taken into account in the outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus.

11. Climate change, the global food crisis and spiralling oil prices had significantly affected the economic and development agenda of the least developed countries. The small island nations and mountainous communities of the Himalayas were extremely vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change and, while post-Kyoto negotiations should address those concerns, the countries themselves needed to start taking measures to adapt.

12. Nepal had recently undergone a fundamental political transformation and was now embarking on a new form of socio-economic development. The Government was emphasizing the reform of the farming sector, harnessing hydroelectric power, and boosting tourism; it also needed to develop the industrial sector and rural infrastructure. The success of those domestic initiatives depended on effective mobilization of financial and technical resources from its development partners.

13. **Mr. Labbé** (Chile) said that the United Nations should send a powerful political signal regarding the risks that mismanagement of the overlapping crises in the financial and food sectors would create for developing countries. Chile welcomed recent United Nations activities designed to reinforce the commitments made during the Millennium Summit and to initiate specific actions to help all countries achieve their Millennium Development Goals. In the absence of concerted action, some regions of the world, principally in Africa, would fail to achieve development and social well-being.

14. An important objective of the current session was to reach agreement on a resolution convening a High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation, to be held no later than the first half of 2009, as indicated in General Assembly resolution 62/209. South-South cooperation, while not a substitute for North-South cooperation, had proved to be an effective instrument for providing development assistance; consequently, it was imperative to update the 1978 Buenos Aires Plan of Action for Promoting and Implementing Technical Cooperation among Developing Countries.

15. Chile reiterated its offer of support and cooperation to the negotiation process leading up to the Doha Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development, and trusted that the outcome document would reflect the main concerns of the developing countries, such as the architecture of the international financial system, external debt, international trade and, above all, an effective follow-up mechanism for the Monterrey Consensus.

16. The advancement of developing countries involved increasing their presence in international knowledge networks, especially as regards science and technology. Chile was therefore increasing its efforts in that regard; it wished to help increase and strengthen international cooperation for the promotion of scientific development at the regional level, and encourage technology transfer in the productive sectors. To that end, Chile was chairing the Commission on Science and Technology for Development and organizing an intersessional meeting in Santiago in November 2008 to discuss the development of a socio-economically inclusive information society. It also intended to strongly support the draft resolution on the threat of climate change to international peace and security submitted by the small Pacific island States.

17. **Mr. Malmierca** (Cuba) recalled that the Second Committee would be discussing such crucial issues as international trade and finance, and the environment,

which were the current focus of global attention. It was also preparing to review the results of the Monterrey Consensus on development financing and establish new standards for that important initiative. The failure of the developed countries to comply with their commitments was one of the main obstacles to achieving the agreed development goals, including the MDGs. The outcome of the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development should reject conditioned assistance intended to impose specific patterns of conduct based on unsustainable political and economic models.

18. The recent financial crisis in the United States of America, with its global repercussions, provided the most patent illustration of the failure of the neo-liberal market-based capitalist model, with its unbridled consumerism. That model was not the way to development. Neo-liberal globalization had continued to increase the gap between rich and poor; and the food crisis resulting from the inequities of the current international economic order meant that almost one billion people suffered from hunger, while approximately 1.4 million people lived in extreme poverty.

19. Amidst the global chaos and despite the constraints of the economic embargo that had lasted for nearly 50 years, Cuba continued to offer the world a viable development alternative, based on the exercise of its full sovereignty and the people's participation in decision-making. Even though it had suffered the ravages of three severe hurricanes in recent months, Cuba continued to contribute to the development of other third world countries in the context of South-South cooperation.

20. The United Nations should be the protector of the right to development, the struggle against inequity and the disproportionate squandering of resources by a few countries to the detriment of the immense majority of the global population. In order to encourage a more extensive discussion on those issues, Cuba would be submitting a draft resolution on the new international economic order and hoped that it would receive unanimous support.

21. **Ms. Al-Zaabi** (United Arab Emirates) said that the various global crises were threatening to derail sustainable development and damage global security and peace. Her delegation commended the initiatives of some of the developed countries in the areas of direct assistance and debt relief, urged speedy implementation of the recommendations of the various international development conferences, and hoped that the upcoming Doha Review Conference would be a step in the right direction. Her country had made great strides in development both through efficient use of oil resources and by diversifying its economy to develop the non-oil sectors. It ranked thirty-ninth on the 2007-2008 United Nations Development Programme human development index, and followed a free-market model that encouraged small businesses and had increased its citizens' income levels. It ranked among the most competitive and investment-worthy of the Arab countries, and its measures to combat corruption and money-laundering had gained international praise. In conjunction with the World Wide Fund for Nature, her country had drawn up plans for a zero-carbon city. It was a party to international agreements on development and contributed financial support to developing countries and countries suffering from conflicts and natural disasters.

22. **Ms. Ataeva** (Turkmenistan) said that the soaring prices of oil and food, together with the financial crisis, had clearly exposed the vulnerability of the entire global trade and economic relations system, as well as the absence of protection mechanisms. It demonstrated that, in addition to the traditional threats of a political and military nature, new factors had emerged that were equally dangerous for the world's stability and development.

23. Energy resources, principally hydrocarbons, were the engine for global development and their supply routes were a dominant factor in the progress and prosperity of entire continents. The reliability of energy supplies was essential; the oil market tended to react to the slightest fluctuation in the global political situation or changes in the situation in one or other region of the world, especially in areas where considerable reserves of raw material were concentrated or strategic transportation routes were located. Such fluctuations had a negative impact on the entire world economy, which would be avoided if the global community took up the issue of ensuring the reliability of hydrocarbon supplies, if delivery routes were secure and protected by the authority of the world community, and if a reliable international legal framework existed. The draft resolution entitled "Reliable transit of energy and its role in ensuring stable economic development and international

cooperation" (A/C.2/63/L.3), co-sponsored by Turkmenistan, could be the first step in the process. In addition, his Government proposed to hold an international conference in 2009 on the issue of ensuring the reliable transportation of energy to international markets. Turkmenistan supported the establishment of economically feasible, reliable and secure routes for the delivery of energy. It also wanted to encourage inter-State and interregional trade and economic ties, and to stimulate integration processes for the economic growth of producer, transit and consumer countries, leading to the solution of social problems.

24. **Mr. Ja`afari** (Syrian Arab Republic) said that his country had made great economic strides, including its entry into the Greater Arab Free Trade Area (GAFTA) in 2005 and the conclusion of a number of bilateral free trade agreements. However, there were a number of factors hindering its development and its integration into the global economy. Israeli occupation continued to deprive it of the resources of the Golan, which Israel was exploiting in unsustainable and environmentally unsound ways. For political reasons, no action had been taken on his country's application, submitted in 2001 and again in 2004, to join the World Trade Organization (WTO). Unilateral measures by certain States, such as those taken by the United States of America in 2004, had subjected it to restrictions that were contrary to the principles of free trade. It was also paying the price for the misguided policies of the United States of America in Iraq, with over 1.5 million Iraqi refugees placing undue strain on its health care, education and services sectors, and was suffering the consequences of climate change, including its most severe drought in decades, despite the fact that it was not a major contributor to climate change.

25. He called on the Committee to draw international attention to the negative effects on development of foreign occupation and to condemn the politicization of the WTO accession process. He demanded compliance with General Assembly resolution 62/184 calling for facilitation of the accession of all developing countries that apply for membership in the World Trade Organization and General Assembly resolution 62/183 condemning unilateral economic measures as a means of political and economic coercion against developing countries. He urged the international community to assist countries bordering Iraq with the refugee problem, and called on developed countries to fulfil their commitments under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change and the Kyoto Protocol. His delegation stressed the importance of the upcoming Doha Review Conference and expressed concern that developed countries might use the current financial crisis as a pretext for reneging on their commitments under the Monterrey Consensus.

26. **Mr. Badji** (Senegal) said that, while the global food, energy and financial crises were generating anxiety around the world, key events in recent days had mobilized world leaders to find urgent responses to the problems facing developing countries. Such events demonstrated the complexity and interdependence of the multidimensional challenges that prevented countries from climbing out of poverty and the need for a multilateral approach. The Committee could play an important role by promoting the provision of United Nations assistance to Member States.

27. Senegal had been hit hard by the global food crisis, which it was working to mitigate. Its programme entitled "Major agricultural offensive for food and abundance", which aimed to end Senegal's food dependence on the outside world, was already producing results. That said, national efforts alone were not enough; the international community must support them by increasing aid to the agricultural sector.

28. The most visible effects of climate change in Africa were desertification, coastal erosion and the salinization of groundwater. The "great green wall" project aimed to address that situation by planting a forest measuring 105,000 square kilometres from Senegal to Djibouti. The project would help slow down desertification and sequestrate greenhouse gases. As for coastal erosion, it was hoped that the ministerial conference to be hosted by Senegal in November 2008 would offer an appropriate response. It was essential for States to reach consensus on a new international agreement on climate change. Senegal was committed to finding a lasting solution in that regard.

29. Another challenge concerned the implementation of international commitments in the economic and financial arenas; States must keep their related promises. Financing for development was a fundamental pillar in that regard, particularly in view of the upcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus. He

welcomed the identification of new financing mechanisms, such as the air-ticket levy, the International Drug Purchase Facility and the Global Digital Solidarity Fund, all of which were being promoted by the Pilot Group on Solidarity Contributions for Development.

30. Access to new and innovative technologies was essential if all were to benefit from progress. Such technologies must be an effective means of promoting sustainable development. To that end, Africa had mainstreamed information and communications technologies (ICT) into the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) from the start and proposed the concept of digital solidarity with the launch, in 2003, of the Global Digital Solidarity Fund. The Fund had proposed an innovative financing mechanism — the "1 per cent digital solidarity" principle — according to which providers of ICT-related goods and services would donate 1 per cent of the contract value to the Fund, which would use the funds to buy digital goods and services for the people of the South. He hoped that the Lyon Conference on Digital Solidarity, to be held in November 2008, would generate considerable support for the mechanism with a view to concluding an international convention on the subject.

31. Agricultural subsidies and protectionism seriously hindered development efforts in the South. They also played a major role in Africa's insignificant share in global trade. Their persistence, coupled with the repeated failures of trade negotiations, further undermined the hopes of millions of people.

32. Lastly, a solution must be found to illegal immigration. The answer was not to adopt repressive measures or to make a distinction between good and bad candidates but rather to create the right conditions to discourage emigration.

33. **Mr. Mohamad** (Sudan) said that profound global challenges were threatening the world's most vulnerable, eroding hard-won gains and challenging developing countries' economic and political reform efforts. The global food crisis, for example, threatened the lives of millions, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa. As a consequence, the right to food and to development could no longer be ignored. The crisis required global solidarity and a coordinated global response that focused on the interests of the most vulnerable. The Committee must continue to advocate a holistic approach. It was important to revitalize agriculture while at the same time addressing the structural and financial obstacles to development.

34. The current financial crisis called for urgent reform. In particular, collective efforts to secure developing country voice and participation in international decision-making processes must be intensified to ensure that such countries could become integrated into the global economic system and participate in setting its parameters.

35. Climate change must be addressed within the context of sustainable development and the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. Political will would be needed to push for a new international agreement at the fifteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, to be held in Copenhagen in December 2009, one that would contain firm and strict emissions reduction targets, and financial and technical support for developing countries. The poorest countries, which had the lowest emissions levels and were the least prepared but the hardest hit by the adverse impact of climate change, must be assisted by the international community.

36. Global issues called for multilateral solutions. The current crises had exposed the international system's inequality and weakness and highlighted the urgent need for concerted action on the governance of the international system and the implementation of international development commitments. Development partners must honour their commitments relating to official development assistance (ODA), which continued to fall. Conditionality, unpredictability and earmarking of ODA were key challenges. Developed countries must also fulfil their commitment to allocate 0.7 per cent of gross national product (GNP) as ODA to developing countries and 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of GNP to the least developed countries by 2010.

37. Two landmark events at the 2008 substantive session of the Economic and Social Council had been the first Development Cooperation Forum and the second Annual Ministerial Review. Both processes could be expected to contribute to the strengthening of the Council, the implementation of the global partnership for development and the monitoring of development commitments. The Committee should seek to make those processes more results-oriented and a platform for the exchange of experiences. They

should also be allowed to address emerging global challenges. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development must also address emerging challenges, their negative impact on development and the best way forward. The collapse of WTO negotiations jeopardized the development dimension of the Doha Round and gave greater urgency to the need to guarantee an equitable international trading system, one that would provide developing countries, particularly the least developed countries, with duty- and quota-free market access and eliminate agricultural subsidies. In that connection, WTO should facilitate the accession of interested States and reject any attempts at politicization.

38. Despite some improvement in its overall economic performance, Africa continued to be subject to systemic pressures beyond its control. Such pressures hindered its efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger and achieve sustainable development and made it susceptible to external shocks. It was a matter of concern that Africa continued to lag behind the rest of the developing world in its progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. In that regard, he was heartened by the commitments announced at the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, held on 22 September 2008, and by discussions at the High-level Event on the Millennium Development Goals, held on 25 September 2008. Developed countries must fulfil their commitments expeditiously if Africa was to be assisted.

39. South-South cooperation remained crucial as it could assist developing countries in harnessing their collective strength and complementarity at a time of challenge and change. He therefore looked forward to the High-level United Nations Conference on South-South Cooperation to be held in 2009. South-South cooperation should be viewed not as a substitute for North-South cooperation or as ODA, but rather as an expression of solidarity and cooperation born out of shared experiences.

40. Lastly, he hoped that the Committee would continue to take account of the special circumstances facing countries, in particular countries emerging from conflict, by mobilizing United Nations system support in the areas of ODA and external debt, which continued to hinder reconstruction and development efforts.

41. **Mr. Cancela** (Uruguay), highlighting some of the steps his country had taken to achieve the Millennium Development Goals, said, with reference to health care, that the recently established national health fund accorded priority to primary health care and prevention. The fund also provided financing enabling all citizens to enjoy their right to health. In the area of education, a new plan aimed to provide all State school pupils with access to digital information and to facilitate networks among pupils, teachers and schools.

42. His country was also working to expand, modernize and diversify its external sector in order to increase its role in international trade. Further trade liberalization was essential and should be based on an open, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory international trading and financial system devoid of all protectionist measures including restrictions on agricultural products and export subsidies. Domestic support measures should be reduced significantly and markets, particularly those of developed countries, should be opened up more.

43. The current global food crisis required not only urgent action, but also a long-term solution. A successful conclusion of the WTO negotiations was the only way to ensure global food security. Every effort should therefore be made to resume the Doha Round, particularly negotiations relating to agriculture. New technologies were needed to boost agricultural production and make it economically and socially sustainable and resistant to climate change. In addition, more research was needed to halt the decline in soil and water resources and ensure food production in the future.

44. On the subject of financing for development, his delegation attached considerable importance to the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. He noted, in particular, that the current mechanism for reviewing implementation of the Monterrey Consensus and of such agreements as might be reached in Doha needed to be strengthened and improved. His Government was interested in proposals put forward for innovative and additional forms of development financing, as well as new initiatives concerning the international financing machinery.

45. Collaboration between the United Nations and international financial institutions should be strengthened in order to mobilize resources for development. In that connection, the term "middle-income country" should be revised because it reflected neither internal inequalities often obscured by

national averages nor efforts to overcome the vulnerability of national economies and particularly of large segments of the population. Although Uruguay was classified as a middle-income country, it faced structural obstacles that impeded sustainable development, and it required technical and financial assistance. According to the Economic Commission for Latin America and the Caribbean, 90 per cent of Latin Americans living in extreme poverty lived in middle-income countries.

46. The institutional capacity of the United Nations to combat environmental degradation should continue to be strengthened given the grave global threat which the phenomenon posed to current and future generations. Further progress was therefore needed in implementing the agreements reached at the United Nations Conference on Environment and Development and the Plan of Implementation of the World Summit on Sustainable Development. International cooperation on the environment through compliance with existing commitments, on the basis of common but differentiated responsibilities, was therefore essential. Sustainable development strategies must respect the needs of present and future generations.

47. Every State must exercise its responsibility to actively protect the environment of its territory and waters, with the vigilant participation of civil society. In so doing, States should ensure that foreign and domestic enterprises operating in their territory complied with strict environmental quality standards. Uruguay had adopted internationally accepted standards for that purpose and rigorously enforced them.

48. Although his country was not a major contributor to global warming, it fully recognized the dangers which the phenomenon posed and the difficulty involved in achieving sustainable social and economic development, given the close relationship between its natural resources and economic performance. The latest report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change clearly reflected the seriousness of the situation. Environmental protection was a human right and a prerequisite for truly sustainable development. The international community, donor countries in particular, should scale up their environmental cooperation with developing countries and adopt global targets that imposed common but differentiated responsibilities on all.

49. His country shared the Security Council's concern regarding the link between armed conflict and the trafficking, illicit trade and illegal exploitation of natural resources. While, pursuant to the Charter of the United Nations, the issue normally fell within the purview of the Security Council, under international law States enjoyed an absolute right to dispose of their assets and natural resources in accordance with their national interests. Accordingly, in situations not involving armed conflict, issues pertaining to natural resources properly were within the purview of the General Assembly and the Economic and Social Council. One example of the latter type of situation was the arrangement between Argentina, Brazil, Paraguay and Uruguay for the management, monitoring and sustainable development of the Guarani Aquifer.

50. Lastly, his Government viewed the "One United Nations" pilot programme as an instrument for reforming the operational activities of the United Nations system and a cooperation exercise in the priority areas identified by his Government. His Government and the United Nations system had designed 10 projects. Uruguay had invested considerable technical capacity and human resources in the pilot project in the hope that United Nations reform would ultimately benefit its development efforts. That reform should not be a mere cost-cutting exercise; rather, it should result in more efficient programme implementation and better use of resources.

51. **Mr. Swe** (Myanmar) said that global imbalances were a major obstacle for many developing countries, whose difficult situation was further compounded by declining ODA, rising food and oil prices and the spreading financial crisis. Progress towards the Millennium Development Goals had been less than impressive. Myanmar looked forward to the upcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development as an opportunity to review the current world situation and ensure that commitments regarding the international development agenda were translated into concrete action.

52. The recent impasse in the Doha Development Round threatened to undermine the promotion of an open, rules-based and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system. Timely completion of the Doha Round with development as a core focus was essential if developing countries were to harness the potential of international trade.

53. Developing countries were most affected by the adverse effects of climate change. Their lack of financial resources and technical capabilities for mitigation and adaptation measures made them more vulnerable. Developed and developing countries had common but differentiated responsibilities in addressing the challenge of climate change. The ongoing negotiations related to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change should take full account of developing countries' need to promote the three pillars of sustainable development in a coordinated and balanced manner.

54. His Government's national development plan aimed to accelerate growth, achieve equitable, balanced development, and reduce the socio-economic development gap between rural and urban areas. The significant improvements made in a number of sectors, including health, education, infrastructure and agriculture, had positively impacted on Myanmar's progress towards the Millennium Development Goals. Nevertheless, developing countries, including Myanmar, could not achieve the Goals on their own. National efforts needed to be complemented by cooperative efforts by the international community.

55. **Mr. Ben-Tura** (Israel) said that it was more important than ever to strengthen the development pillar, as the repercussions of the financial, food and energy crises hit developing countries hardest. In that connection, he welcomed the timely political declaration adopted at the High-level Meeting on Africa's Development Needs, which had renewed commitments to achieve the Millennium Development Goals in Africa.

56. A memorandum of understanding had been signed between the Israeli Center for International Cooperation and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP) in Africa for cooperation in the field of agriculture and the Israeli Government was also planning to sign a partnership framework agreement with UNDP. Information and communications technologies played an important role in development: universal access to such technologies was vital to ensure broad, inclusive participation in the emerging information society and global economy. He hoped that the Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would strengthen the spirit of consensus and lead to broader international partnerships for sustainable development.

57. The Committee must remain seized of the issue of climate change. Israel had adopted a number of initiatives in the areas of sustainable fresh water management, protection of biodiversity, and desertification prevention, with a view to achieving internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals.

58. **Mr. Bui The Giang** (Viet Nam) said that the current financial crisis, combined with the ongoing food and energy crises, threatened to drive the global economy into a recession. The failure of the Doha Round further aggravated the situation and progress towards the Millennium Development Goals was at risk.

59. He welcomed the momentum created by the recent high-level meeting devoted to the midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action. It was now necessary to scale up global partnerships in order to track progress towards the internationally agreed goals, including the Millennium Development Goals, in concrete ways. To play a central role in all global development agendas, the United Nations must adopt reforms to increase its capacity.

60. The international community should examine how to minimize the negative impacts and maximize the potential benefits of globalization for developing countries, particularly the least developed and landlocked nations. Developed countries bore primary responsibility for engaging with and providing assistance to developing countries. In that regard, he called on developed countries to honour their commitments to increase ODA to 0.7 per cent of their GNP, provide further debt relief and aid for trade, promote technology transfer and facilitate the participation of developing partners in the international economic architecture.

61. An open, equitable, rules-based, predictable and non-discriminatory trading and financial system was vital to hunger eradication, poverty alleviation and development. The Doha Round negotiations should be reopened with a stronger international political will and flexibility. He hoped that the forthcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development would provide a true forum for the international community to reach a consensus on ways to meet the needs of developing countries.

62. Environmental degradation and climate change had impacted negatively on the sustainable development of all countries. Priority must be given to adaptation to climate change and the building of resilience in vulnerable nations. Mitigation measures should be intensified globally through a global agreement under the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change. He called on developed countries to take the lead in reducing carbon emissions and transferring clean technologies to developing countries.

63. **Mr. Al Habib** (Islamic Republic of Iran) said that eradicating poverty was not only the greatest challenge currently facing the world; it was indispensable for sustainable development, particularly in developing countries. The current food crisis, which threatened the progress made towards the Millennium Development Goals, should be turned into an opportunity to revitalize global agricultural production and trade and to rectify the systemic imbalances accumulated over the years. The food crisis was not only a humanitarian concern, but also a threat to social and political stability. In light of world population growth, the crisis was a reminder of commitments made to sustainable development goals and their follow-up. As emphasized in the outcome document of the recent Fifteenth Ministerial Conference of the Non-Aligned Movement, solutions to the food crisis must feature a multi-faceted approach including short-, medium- and long-term actions.

64. Desertification had clearly negative effects on agricultural production and posed a major challenge to sustainable development. High-income consumers, most of whom lived in developed countries, continued to adopt lifestyle and consumption standards that were increasingly unsustainable. Inequality remained a major obstacle to sustainable development in almost all countries. Addressing issues such as employment and working conditions required a collective will, strong cooperation and delivery on commitments agreed at landmark summits in recent decades.

65. **Ms. Aitimova** (Kazakhstan) said that the soaring fuel and food prices amidst modest wage growth and increasing unemployment mainly impacted the least developed countries, landlocked developing countries and small island developing States. She welcomed the recent midterm review of the Almaty Programme of Action, at which States had unanimously adopted new international cooperation modalities for ensuring stable economic growth and correcting trade imbalances for landlocked developing countries, and encouraged the international community to build on the momentum achieved to prepare for the upcoming Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development. The outcome document of the Conference should be speedily endorsed; effective discussion and revision of the document was therefore crucial to achieve consensus on the final draft.

66. The Government of Kazakhstan was striving to prevent an economic slowdown, curb inflation, supply sufficient food to domestic markets and maintain stable living standards for its people. Kazakhstan's high growth rates had enabled it to become an active investor in neighbouring countries and it was currently on its way to becoming one of the world's 50 most competitive economies.

67. Because diminished food security was likely to undermine efforts towards achieving sustainable development, it was important for all nations to adopt uniform approaches in order to improve agro-industrial competitiveness and ultimately ensure food security at the regional and international levels. It was necessary to adopt and implement urgent measures to increase funding and to transfer advanced technology to developing countries in order to maximize agricultural production. Kazakhstan had recently lifted its ban on grain exports in light of the prediction of an excellent harvest and was confident that such actions would contribute to stabilizing the situation of the global food market.

68. Kazakhstan strongly supported international efforts to mainstream environmental sustainability and socially oriented development policy in national, sectoral and local strategies. It was now forging partnerships with civil society, the private sector and philanthropic institutions in order to achieve common sustainable development goals and thus protect the environment for future generations.

69. As a major exporter of hydrocarbons, Kazakhstan would continue to provide energy supplies to the world markets via multiple routes. Realizing the importance of responsibility in the energy market, Kazakhstan had co-sponsored a number of General Assembly resolutions on energy transparency and security.

70. The issue of transboundary water resources was important in Central Asia. The support of the Committee was needed to endorse the resolution

sponsored by Kazakhstan and other countries of Central Asia on granting the International Fund for Saving the Aral Sea observer status in the General Assembly. Such status was necessary to institutionalize the joint efforts on mitigating problems caused by socio-economic and ecological crises in the Aral Sea basin.

71. **Mr. Sow** (Guinea) said that the current crisis gave the Committee the opportunity to examine the underlying causes of the sharp rise in food and oil prices. Although his delegation welcomed the initiatives taken to end the food crisis, which had hit the poorest countries hardest, long-term solutions were called for. The international community should promote strategies that would put agriculture and agricultural development at the heart of national and international policy. Only thus would the needs of the most vulnerable populations be met and social and political stability preserved. He also welcomed the attention paid to the problem of climate change, as evidenced by the decisions adopted at the thirteenth session of the Conference of the Parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

72. Concerted, voluntary action should be taken to ensure that the highest price was not paid by the countries that had contributed least to the current crisis. The sharp rise in the price of oil and energy products was a matter of concern. Producer countries should show greater solidarity with non-producers, especially the least developed countries. The international community should also curb its consumption and develop a global energy policy, with particular reference to renewable energy sources.

73. Attention should be paid to migration flows, which had multiplied as a result of globalization. The international community should approach the issue in a spirit of active and pragmatic solidarity that would take due account of development, security and international cooperation.

74. At the halfway mark to the Millennium Development Goals, it was clear that, unless current trends were reversed, the Goals would not be attained in Africa. There was no time to lose. Promises must be translated into practice and commitments undertaken, whether individually or collectively, must be honoured. The international community should give the highest priority to practical action on rural and industrial development, infrastructure, climate change and financing for development. It should also support the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), through which African Governments undertook to develop infrastructure and promote human rights, the rule of law, democratization and the attainment of the Millennium Development Goals. Action must be taken on trade, official development assistance, debt alleviation, technology transfer and innovative financing for development in order to give the developing countries a better chance of playing their part in globalization.

75. Obstacles to the completion of the Doha Round must be removed so that measures could be adopted to stimulate development and end extreme poverty. Such measures should include preferential access to markets and technical assistance on trade. Official development assistance should be more predictable and more focused on national priorities. Guinea, which was chairing the Pilot Group on Solidarity Levies to Fund Development, was making every effort to supplement traditional forms of support. His delegation welcomed the progress made with the Heavily Indebted Poor Countries Initiative and urged the richer countries to provide more resources in order to assure its success. It also welcomed the enormous potential of South-South cooperation in various areas. The international community should continue its efforts in that regard.

76. **Mr. García González** (El Salvador) said that it became ever clearer that the world was in crisis and that the sharp rise in the price of oil — indeed, price instability, generally — would have a dramatic impact on development in most countries, including his own. The best way of meeting the challenge was through multilateral, collective action. No country, however powerful, could overcome on its own the effects of climate change or the energy, food and financial crises. The international community must maintain and strengthen its commitment to attain the Millennium Development Goals by 2015.

77. Disturbing though it was, the crisis provided an opportunity to carry out a root-and-branch reform of the Bretton Woods institutions with a view to enhancing their technical capacity, their credit mechanisms and the financial resources required to assist countries in preventing financial crises.

78. His delegation supported the convening of an international conference to consider the world's financial and governance structures. A new economic

order should be established that would pay due attention to the needs of developing countries, in particular. The Follow-up International Conference on Financing for Development to Review the Implementation of the Monterrey Consensus would also provide an opportunity to tackle the issue of development cooperation.

79. His delegation strongly supported the efforts by middle-income countries to end poverty, in line with the El Salvador Consensus on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries and the Declaration issued at the Third International Ministerial Conference on Development Cooperation with Middle-Income Countries, held in Windhoek, Namibia, in August 2008. At the next such conference, a comprehensive action plan should be worked out whereby middle-income countries could face the challenges of development in the medium and long term.

80. His delegation attached great importance to the issue of international migration, which was extremely relevant for El Salvador, since it provided the means by which Salvadorians could gain access to globalization. The United Nations should debate the topic, taking into account the interests and needs of countries of origin, transit and destination, and also the promotion and protection of migrants' human rights.

81. Climate change was one of the greatest challenges facing humanity. Urgent action was required, based on the principle of common but differentiated responsibilities. His delegation participated actively in negotiations on an international agreement on climate change, including the United Nations Climate Change Conference to be held in Copenhagen in 2009. In that connection, it welcomed the agreements reached at the World Conference on Disaster Reduction, held in Kobe, Hyoko, Japan, in 2005. Current patterns of production and consumption must be changed and the sustainable use of natural resources encouraged. Efforts should also be made to strengthen the national bodies responsible for the implementation of action to prevent and mitigate risks and disasters and to ensure efficient coordination at the regional, national and local levels.

82. **Ms. Zemene** (Ethiopia) said that, at a time of crisis, her delegation was encouraged by the renewed resolve on the part of both developing countries and development partners to make an extra effort to meet objectives for stronger growth and development, as set out in a number of international instruments. It was heartening that many of the least developed countries, most of which were in Africa, were receiving wider recognition of the successes that they had achieved. It was, however, a matter of grave concern that such encouraging developments were seriously hampered by the current global difficulties. The per capita rate of official development assistance was falling in many developing countries and the least developed countries received no extra assistance to deal with the food and energy crisis or with environmental degradation. There was no shortage of global initiatives in that regard; what was lacking was the commitment to implement them. It was to be hoped that the development partners would, in the spirit of the Monterrey Consensus, fulfil their obligations by providing increased, predictable and coordinated development assistance and access to trade and debt forgiveness.

83. Initiatives on the part of some development partners to address the current food crisis and expand the green revolution were encouraging. Her delegation attached great importance to the work of the High-level Task Force on the Global Food Security Crisis and endorsed the declaration issued at the Summit convened by the Food and Agriculture Organization of the United Nations, which had urged that developing countries should be helped to expand agriculture and food production and increase investment in agriculture and rural development.

84. Her Government had embarked on plans to accelerate growth in order to fulfil its obligations under the Millennium Development Goals and other development programmes. Its Plan for Accelerated and Sustained Development to End Poverty, launched in 2005, had reached its halfway point. Despite various difficulties, the Ethiopian economy had witnessed double-digit growth in gross domestic product over each of the past four years. The effect on poverty reduction had been encouraging: universal enrolment in primary education had been achieved and primary health coverage had improved. There had been significant expansion in such sectors of the economy as agriculture, construction and real estate.

85. She drew attention to draft resolution A/C.2/63/L.2, sponsored by her delegation, under which 2011 would be proclaimed the International Year of Chemistry. That year had been chosen because it marked the centenary of the award of the Nobel Prize

in Chemistry to Marie Curie — an inspiration to all students, especially women — for her discovery of radium and polonium. All Member States should support the draft resolution, which laid the foundation for a partnership between scientists and the international community to promote the role of chemical science in advancing industrialization and contributing to economic progress.

86. **Mr. Rosenthal** (Guatemala) said that his delegation's commitment to the development dimension of the United Nations was evidenced by its participation in the Economic and Social Council, in the Executive Boards of the United Nations Development Programme and the United Nations Children's Fund and in the organization of international conferences on financing for development.

87. His delegation wished, however, to express concern about the adverse impact of globalization on developing countries. Its potential for providing access to trade liberalization and financial resources carried with it a corresponding risk, particularly with regard to its distributive effects between and within countries and the destabilizing effects of sudden movements of capital, especially in the short term. Such concerns were exacerbated by the rise in oil and food prices. The current crisis could also affect efforts to mitigate climate change. Moreover, the failure of the United Nations, and also the Bretton Woods institutions and the World Trade Organization, to take action to deal with the current situation was worrying.

88. At such times, financial issues took on greater significance; and the General Assembly and the Second and Third Committees had a role to play in considering how to ensure ordered growth so that people throughout the world could live in decent and environmentally sustainable conditions. The complexity of the situation was such that many of the usual items on the agenda lost much of their relevance. It was, however, important that the international community should act with altruism. Like the crisis itself, the benefits of recovery would be felt around the globe. Multilateral cooperation was therefore essential.

The meeting rose at 1.10 p.m.